

82D CONGRESS  
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT  
No. 2460

## LANDS RESERVED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES IN ALASKA MAY BE LEASED FOR PERIODS NOT IN EXCESS OF 99 YEARS

JULY 3, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BENTSEN, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1951]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1951) to provide that lands reserved to the Territory of Alaska for educational purposes may be leased for periods not in excess of 99 years, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to provide that lands reserved to the Territory of Alaska for educational purposes may be leased for periods not in excess of 99 years. At the present time sections 16 and 36 in each township in the Territory of Alaska are reserved from sale or settlement for the support of common schools in the Territory of Alaska. Under the present law the Territory may, by general law, provide for leasing said land not to exceed one section to any one person, association, or corporation for not longer than 10 years at any one time. Revenue from the leasing of these lands is reserved for school purposes. This bill would increase this lease time limitation from 10 years to 99 years to encourage leases for the purposes intended to yield greater income to the school fund through the construction of permanent structures and to meet the long-term-lease requirements provided in the National Housing Act. The committee was advised that there is a possibility of leasing these school sections near one or two of the larger cities of Alaska for housing developments, and, therefore, the revision of the time limitation was thought desirable. This bill would not involve an expenditure of Federal funds.

The favorable report of the Department of the Interior is attached.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington 25, D. C., January 3, 1952.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: This is in reply to the request of your committee for a report on H. R. 1951, a bill to provide that lands reserved to the Territory of Alaska for educational purposes may be leased for periods not in excess of 99 years.

I have no objection to the enactment of this bill.

The second proviso of the act of March 4, 1915, as amended (48 U. S. C., 1946 ed., sec. 353) authorizes the Territory of Alaska to lease certain lands reserved from sale or settlement for the support of common schools in the Territory—" \* \* \* in area not to exceed one section to any one person, association, or corporation for not longer than ten years at any one time".

H. R. 1951 would permit the issuance of leases for a term of up to 99 years instead of the 10-year maximum now in effect under the 1915 act. This proposal to broaden the scope of the Territory's discretion in issuing leases for lands reserved for the benefit of Territorial schools seems entirely proper. I believe that the Territory can best determine for itself the term for which its leases should be issued.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

Sincerely yours,

DALE E. DOTY,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2a of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as introduced, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

38 STAT. 1214

(48 U. S. C., SEC. 353)

*Provided further*, That the Territory may, by general law, provide for leasing said land in area not to exceed one section to any one person, association, or corporation for not longer than [ten] *ninety-nine* years at any one time:

Enactment of H. R. 1951 is unanimously recommended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

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